



**Testimony of  
Bart Russell  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the  
Government Administration & Elections Committee  
March 1, 2012**

**RE: HB-5027 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET  
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION,  
CONSOLIDATION AND MODIFICATION OF VARIOUS BOARDS AND  
COMMISSIONS.**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *strongly supports* Sections 47-56 of **HB-5027**, which extends the state's plans to create a highly dependable network that supports public safety, education and network operability to include municipal facilities. This issue was identified by COST members as a top priority for 2012.

COST applauds Governor Dannel P. Malloy for introducing legislation to include municipal facilities in the state's plan to roll-out the broadband network. Municipal governments need to be able to connect to vital public health and safety networks, communicate with government agencies and constituents and access and submit electronic forms and reports required under state and federal law.

In addition, extending connectivity to municipal buildings as part of the roll-out of the broadband network should be more cost effective and efficient than revisiting municipal buildings at a later date.

Clearly, town leaders, including representatives of small towns, must be included in any planning discussions relative to the deployment of broadband technology. We therefore are very pleased that the legislation includes an appointment for COST on the Commission for Technology Advancement.

COST looks forward to being an active partner in the effort to extend broadband access to municipal buildings.

We urge your strong support for Sections 47-56 of HB-5027.